

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MAPUTO 01412 040009Z

70

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 DHA-02 MCT-01 IO-13 /083 W

----- 123011

R 031427Z DEC 76

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5301

INFO AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MAPUTO 1412

JOHANNESBURG FOR REGIONAL MINERALS OFFICER

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, MZ, SF

SUBJECT: NUMBER OF MOZAMBIQUE MINEWORKERS IN RSA DECREASES

REF: (A) MAPUTO 1396 (NOTAL) (B) MAPUTO 885

EMBOFFS SPOKE WITH EDWARD JONES, DEPUTY GENERAL
MANAGER OF WENELA ORGANIZATION IN MOZAMBIQUE ON
DECEMBER 3. JONES (PROTEC) MADE FOLLOWING REMARKS
ON MOZAMBIQUE MINEWORKERS IN SOUTH AFRICA:

A. THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT HAS EASED UP ON ITS
HARASSMENT OF WOULD-BE MINEWORKERS APPLYING TO GO TO
RSA. TWO NEW OFFICES TO PROCESS TRAVEL DOCUMENT
APPLICATIONS HAVE OPENED IN INHAMBANE AND XAI XAI
TO ADD TO THE TWO IN MAPUTO AND RESSANO GARCIA.
WENELA ESTIMATES THAT IT NOW CAN RECRUIT AND PROCESS
5-6,000 WORKERS PER MONTH, ALTHOUGH THE SOUTH AFRICAN
DEMAND IS NOT THERE TO WORK AT CAPACITY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MAPUTO 01412 040009Z

B. AS A RESULT OF EASING OF BUREAUCRATIC PROCESSING,

WENELA HAS UPPEDED ITS RECRUITMENT OF MOZAMBICAN MINEWORKERS. ALTHOUGH ONLY 15,000 WERE RECRUITED DURING THE FIRST SEVEN MONTHS OF 1976, THE TOTAL WILL RISE TO "LESS THAN 30,000" BY THE END OF THE YEAR. JONES PROJECTS CY 1977 RECRUITMENT AT 55-60,000. PRESENTLY, THE NUMBER OF MOZAMBICANS WORKING IN SOUTH AFRICAN MINES HAS DROPPED TO ONLY 48,000, DOWN CONSIDERABLY FROM THE ESTIMATED 80,000 IN AUGUST 1976, AND SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER THAN YEAR-END 1975 (ABOUT 115,000).

C. WENELA IS MAINTAINING RECRUITING STATIONS JUST ACROSS THE BORDER IN SOUTH AFRICA (AND SWAZILAND) TO RECRUIT MOZAMBIQUE WORKERS OUTSIDE THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT. MINERS FROM NORTH OF THE 22ND PARALLEL ARE ALSO BEING ACCEPTED, ALTHOUGH THIS TOO IS OUTSIDE THE AGREEMENT.

D. JONES ESTIMATE THAT IN THE NEAR FUTURE MALAWI WOULD ONCE AGAIN AGREE TO SUPPLY MINEWORKERS, AND IN THE MEANTIME THE NUMBER OF SWAZI RECRUITS HAS INCREASED FROM 5,000 TO 25,000 AND THE NUMBER OF LESOTHO RECRUITS HAS NEARED 50,000. BOTSWANA RECRUITMENT IS ALSO UP CONSIDERABLY. THESE FACTORS, PLUS THE DEPRESSED STATE OF THE INDUSTRY LEADS HIM TO CONCLUDE THAT ALTHOUGH RECRUITMENT OF MOZAMBICANS WILL CONTINUE, THE DAYS OF MORE THAN 100,000 MOZAMBICANS IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN MINES ARE OVER.

E. JONES CONFIRMED THAT THERE WAS A MEETING IN SWAZILAND BETWEEN GPRM AND SAG MINISTER IN SEPTEMBER ON RENEWING THE MINEWORKERS AGREEMENT (REFTEL), AND THAT THE MEETING WAS INCONCLUSIVE. HE ALSO CONFIRMED THAT THERE IS A CONTINUING EXCHANGE OF VIEWS BY AIDE MEMOIRE BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. JONES NOTED THAT IT WAS NOT THE SAG BUT THE MINING COMPANIES THEMSELVES THAT REIMBURSED THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT UNDER THE OLD FORMULA OF GOLD AT \$42 AND OUNCE, THAT THEY WERE "DAMNED TIRED" OF THIS THREE-FOR-ONE SUBSIDY TO MOZAMBIQUE, AND THAT ANY NEW AGREEMENT "MUST" REFLECT THE WORLD MARKET PRICE OF GOLD.

F. JONES NOTED THAT SEVERAL OF THE 22 WENELA HOLDING CAMPS ALONG THE BORDER HAVE BEEN SHUT DOWN, AND THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MAPUTO 01412 040009Z

WENELA STAFF HAS DECREASED FROM 600 TO 400. (ONE CAMP, IN PAFURI, HAS BEEN SHOT UP TWICE BY RHODESIAN CROSS-BORDER MILITARY ACTION.) WENELA IS ATTEMPTING TO AFRICANIZE ITS MANAGEMENT POSITIONS IN MOZAMBIQUE-PRIMARILY DUE TO FORCE MAJEURE, THE FLIGHT OF ITS PORTUGUESE MANAGERS.

G. JONES NOTED THE NET PAYMENT TO MOZAMBIQUE SINCE INDEPENDENCE ON MINEWORKERS' REMITTANCES HAS BEEN

APPROXIMATELY 10 MILLION RAND PER MONTH. THIS IS REASONABLY
CLOSE TO EMBASSY ESTIMATES.
DE PREE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MIGRATORY WORKERS, MINING INDUSTRY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MAPUTO001412
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760448-0718
From: MAPUTO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761275/aaaacndw.tel
Line Count: 118
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MAPUTO 1396, 76 MAPUTO 885
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <13 OCT 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NUMBER OF MOZAMBIQUE MINEWORKERS IN RSA DECREASES
TAGS: ELAB, MZ, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006